at what cost and when the decision to complete the project during the current year was taken; and

(b) whether the existing broad gauge trains bound for Gauhati are likely to be diverted via this short route?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) It would be possible to complete the entire work with all the required facilities in the Seventh Plan only. However, efforts have been intensified in the past few months to enable completion of conversion of track into BG during this year itself with residual works to be done in the later years, subject to availability of additional funds.

(b) At present there is only one BG train going to Gauhati and that is 155/156 Tinsukia mail and there is no proposal to divert this train via the Katihar route.

Proposed line in Iron-ore belt in Bihar

344. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the position of proposed Baraiburu-Manoharpur Ona to Chirira railway line in the iron ore belt of Bihar; and

(b) what is the estimated cost and by when work is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) and (b) Survey for rail line from Manoharpur to Gua (48 kms.) was carried out in 1953-54. It is now estimated to cost about Rs. 30 crores. Chirira is near Ankua which falls on this alignment. From Gua to Barajamda rail line exists. Another survey from Barajamda to Tatiba near Baraiburu (7.5 kms.) was carried in 1976-78. It is now estimated to cost about Rs. 4 crores.

Due to severe constraint of resources, these rail lines will have to wait for consideration till resources position improves.

Use of saccharine in Food Products

345. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in the United States it is compulsory for food products containing saccharine to carry statutory warning to the effffect that this product contains saccharine which has been determined to cause cancer in laboratory animals;

(b) whether it is a fact that in our country a Statutory Committee on Prevention of Food Adulteration had suggested a ban on the use of saccharine in carbonated water also but it still continues to be so used;

(c) the time by when such a suggestion was made; and

(d) what are the names of items in which use of sacharine has been banned and of those, including soft drinks, where its use is permitted and it is being used, giving specific reasons for the use thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (MISS KUMUD BEN M. JOSHI): (a) Yes.

(b) to (d) Use of saccharine is governed by the standards laid down in P.F.A. Rules.

The Central Committee for Food Standards at its meeting held in February, 1984 has recommended ban on the use of saccharine in carbonated water. The recommendations of the Committee are under consideration.

Losses due to Breach in the Bhakra Canal

346. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state the estimated losses suffered by Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan due to the recent breach in the Bhakra Canal on account of repairs and for making provision for drinking water, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): The cost of repairs to the breach in Bhakra Main Canal of 6th June, 1984 is reported by Punjab as about Rs. 1.5 crores. The concerned State Governments have not reported expenditure incurred on making provsion for drinking water as a result of the breach. The Government of Haryana have, however, informed that the loss incurred on account of damage to crops in the State is of an order of about Rs. 113 crores.

Damage to Chittaranjan Seva Sadan

347. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it a fact that portions of Chittaranjan Seva Sadan building in Calcutta have been seriously damaged because of construction work on Metro Railway on Asutosh Mukherjee Road; and

(b) what steps are being taken to repair to damages?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) Some damages of minor nature have occurred to Chittaranjan Seva Sadan.

(b) The repairs will be undertaken by the Public Works Department of the West Bengal Government for which necessary funds will be made available by the Railways to the CMDA.

रेल माल-भाड़े की चोरी

348. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय :** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उत्तर रेलवे के सतर्कता विभाग ने जून, 1984 के अंतिम सप्ताह में लगभग 40 लाख रुपए के रेल माल-भाड़े की चोरी के एक मामले का पता लगाया था ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो दोषी व्यक्तियों के विरुद्ध क्या कार्यवाही की गई है और उनमें से कितने व्यक्तियों को दंड दिया गया है तथा यदि उनके विरुद्ध पहले से कार्यवाही नहीं की गई है तो विलम्ब के क्या कारण हैं ; और

(ग) सरकार ने इतने बड़े पैमाने पर रेल माल भाड़े की चोरी को रोकने के लिए क्या ठोस कदम उठाए हैं तथा उनका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

रेल मंत्री (श्री ए० बी० ए० गनी खान चौधरी) : (क) जी हां, लेकिन इसका पता रेल मंत्रालय के सतर्कता निदेशालय द्वारा लगाया गया था ।

(ख) अभी जांच-पड़ताल जारी है ।

(ग) किये गये उपाय इस प्रकार हैं :—

1. माल डिब्बों का वजन करने से संबंधित मौजूदा अनुदेशों को दोहराना ;

2. अतिलदान होने पर मौजूदा दंड प्रावधान को दृढ़ता से लागू करना,

3. अतिलदान को रोकने के लिए मालडिब्बों में लदान की लाइनें निर्धारित करना ;

4. महत्वपूर्ण लदान स्थलों पर इलेक्ट्रानिक तुला चौकियों की व्यवस्था के प्रस्ताव ; और

5. अतिलदान के मामलों का पता लगाने के लिए अचानक जांच ।

Private Railway Companies

349. SHRI S. W. DHABE:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of private Railway companies which are still operating in the country and what was their annual income during the last three years; and

(b) whether Government propose to nationalise these companies, if so, what are the details thereof?